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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

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FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Winter vegetable supplies, 1934-35

Summary: Both Mexico and Cuba are reported to have larger crops of winter vegetables available for shipment to the United States during the remaining months of the winter vegetable season (February to May) than last year. Rough estimates indicate that total supplies available for shipment in Mexico, Cuba and Puerto Rico for 1934-35 (November to May) were equivalent to 68,000 short tons, or almost double the United States imports in 1933-34. Of this amount, tomatoes made up 44,100 short tons; green peas, 9,400; eggplant, 2,900; green peppers, 2,850; cucumbers, 2,550; green beans, including limas, 2,400; and all others, 3,800 short tons.

UNITED STATES: Imports of principal fresh vegetables from Mexico and Cuba and receipts from Puerto Rico for 1930-31 to 1933-34, together with the estimated supplies for 1934-35, July to June. 1/

| Vegetable | Average | | | | | | Estimate |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| | 1926-27 | 1930-31 | 1931-32 | 1932-33 | 1933-34 | | 1934-35 |
| | 1930-31 | | | | | | |
| | Short | Short | Short | Short | Short | Short | Short |
| | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons |
| Tomatoes..... | 60,533 | 56,261 | 59,782 | 28,690 | 21,713 | 44,100 | |
| Cucumbers..... | 942 | 1,804 | 1,962 | 1,834 | 2,182 | 2,550 | |
| Eggplant..... | 3,375 | 2,726 | 1,818 | 1,069 | 1,903 | 2,900 | |
| Green peppers.... | 7,129 | 4,874 | 2,936 | 955 | 1,544 | 2,850 | |
| Green beans <u>2/</u> ... | 2,411 | 3,097 | 4,102 | 3,182 | 2,437 | 2,400 | |
| Squash..... | 279 | 167 | 148 | 205 | 141 | 225 | |
| Green peas..... | 9,825 | 9,437 | 7,947 | 4,785 | 2,437 | 9,400 | |
| Others..... | 11,832 | 6,722 | 5,731 | 3,047 | 2,944 | 3,575 | |
| Total..... | 96,346 | 85,088 | 84,426 | 43,767 | 35,301 | 68,000 | |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from official sources. Does not include dry onions or potatoes except early potatoes from nearby countries excluding Canada.

1/ Practically all of the movement takes place from November to May 31.

2/ Mostly limas.

Exports to the United States in November and December were much heavier from Cuba than in the corresponding months of 1933, whereas those from Mexico were lighter. The light movement from Mexico was probably due to the lateness of the season as November shipments were extremely light. Cuba was not

expected to ship as heavy in January as in December, which was a record month, but exports in January from Mexico were expected to be fairly heavy.

In addition to vegetable imports from Mexico, Cuba and Puerto Rico, small quantities of vegetables will probably be received from the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands. Tomatoes are the chief vegetable received from these islands but some carrots may also come forward from the Bahamas.

The volume of winter vegetable imports depends mainly upon the crop in the United States. As soon as domestic vegetables start to move to market in volume, imports decline. Weather conditions in the various producing countries also have a bearing on the amounts shipped since early maturity and the quality of the crops depend on it.

Since there has been considerable interest in the importation of winter vegetables this season due to the injury to the domestic crops from freezes, the import duties for the most important vegetables are given below:

UNITED STATES: Import duties on principal fresh vegetable imports

| Vegetable and unit | Tariff Act, 1930 | | United States-Cuban Agreement, 1934 | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| | General rate | Net rate to Cuba ^{1/} | Seasonal net duty to Cuba (Periods inclusive) ^{2/} | |
| | Cents | Cents | Date | Cents |
| Green beans - | | | | |
| Lima, lb. | 3.5 | 2.8 | Dec. 1 - May 31 | 1.4 |
| Others, lb. | 3.5 | 2.8 | Unchanged | |
| Cucumbers, lb. | 3.0 | 2.4 | Dec. 1 - end Feb. | 1.2 |
| Eggplant, lb. ^{3/} | 1.5 | ^{3/} 1.2 | Dec. 1 - March 31 | 0.6 |
| Green peas, lb. | 3.0 | 2.4 | Unchanged | |
| Okra | 50% ad. val. | 40% ad. val. | Dec. 1 - May 31 | 20% ad. val. |
| Peppers, lb. ^{3/} | 2.5 | ^{3/} 2.0 | Jan. 1 - April 30 | 1.5 |
| Potatoes, Irish, lb. ... | 0.75 | 0.6 | Dec. 1 - end Feb. | 0.3 |
| Squash, lb. | 2.0 | 1.6 | Dec. 1 - May 31 | 1.2 |
| Tomatoes, lb. | 3.0 | 2.4 | Dec. 1 - end Feb. | 1.8 |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from official sources.

^{1/} Duties in this column are 80% of the general rate. All vegetables imported from Cuba in seasons other than reduced-duty months pay duties which are 20% less than the general rates.

^{2/} These duties apply only during the periods shown; at other seasons the 1930 rates apply.

^{3/} The 1930 rates were reduced to these figures by Presidential proclamation, effective January 1, 1932.

Mexico

Supplies: The West Coast of Mexico has a vegetable crop available for shipment to the United States of about 35,375 short tons, or about 3,000 cars, a quantity considerably larger than was shipped in either of the past two seasons but less than the amount shipped in 1931-32 and earlier years, according to the best information that Thomas M. Powell, American Vice Consul at Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was able to secure. As usual, the principal tonnage is in tomatoes and green peas with smaller amounts of green peppers and beans and other produce. The United States winter vegetable imports from Mexico for the past four seasons and the estimated supplies for 1934-35 are given in the following table.

UNITED STATES: Imports of fresh vegetables from Mexico, and the estimated 1934-35 movement, July to June. 1/

| Vegetable | : Average : | : | : | : | : | : | : Estimate |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | : 1926-27 : | 1930-31 | : 1931-32 : | 1932-33 | : 1933-34 : | 1934-35 | |
| | : 1930-31 : | : | : | : | : | : | : <u>2/</u> |
| | : Short : | Short | : Short : | Short | : Short : | Short | : Short |
| | : tons : | tons | : tons : | tons | : tons : | tons | : tons |
| Tomatoes..... | : 49,877 : | 42,385 | : 45,835 : | 17,040 | : 7,159 : | 23,000 | |
| Green peas..... | : 9,825 : | 9,437 | : 7,946 : | 4,783 | : 2,436 : | 9,400 | |
| Cucumbers..... | : 72 : | 29 | : 17 : | 2 | : 4 : | <u>3/</u> 50 | |
| Eggplant..... | : 320 : | 280 | : 157 : | 112 | : 69 : | 150 | |
| Green peppers.. | : 4,252 : | 3,027 | : 2,152 : | 829 | : 613 : | 1,400 | |
| Green beans.... | : 984 : | 1,088 | : 1,975 : | 1,139 | : 634 : | 700 | |
| Squash..... | : 90 : | 89 | : 69 : | 79 | : 80 : | <u>3/</u> 75 | |
| Others..... | : 937 : | 731 | : 882 : | 357 | : 528 : | 600 | |
| Total..... | : 66,357 : | 57,066 | : 59,033 : | 24,341 | : 11,523 : | <u>3/35</u> ,373 | |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from the annual reports of the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

1/ Most of imports received from November to May 31.

2/ Preliminary estimate by Thomas M. Powell, American Vice Consul at Nogales, Mexico, of vegetables available for shipment, and, of course, subject to change. Reduced to short tons from carlots by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

3/ Estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Weather Conditions: The principal factors that will govern shipments of winter vegetables to the United States from Mexico during 1934-35 are weather conditions, and the demand in the United States for vegetables at prices high enough to return Mexican growers a profit. Judging from the past history of the winter vegetables industry in Mexico, the West Coast growing districts are usually visited by severe frosts or torrential rains at least once during each season. Such catastrophes cause damage to the crops and result in a sharp decline in shipments.

Weather conditions in the vegetable growing sections, Sonora, Sinaloa and Baja California were generally satisfactory during most of December, especially the last two weeks. These states border on the Gulf of California. Sonora and Baja (Lower) California adjoin the United States.

Shipments: Exports during November and December of 1934 from the West Coast of Mexico to the United States fell considerably below those of the preceding year, or 1,051 short tons (107 cars) compared with 3,237 short tons (338 cars) in 1933. This difference was mostly due to light shipments in November, 1934. Shipments in the last half of December, 1934, amounted to 877 short tons (91 cars) as compared with 1,244 short tons (137 cars) in the same period last year. Tomatoes and peas made up the bulk of the movement. Details of the exports are given in the table below:

MEXICO: Exports of certain winter vegetables to the United States from the West Coast States.

| Vegetable | : November and December : | | : December 16 - 31 : | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | : 1933 : | | : 1934 : | |
| | : Short tons : | : Short tons : | : Short tons : | : Short tons : |
| Tomatoes..... | : 1,844 : | : 707 : | : 511 : | : 566 : |
| Green peas..... | : 1,258 : | : 254 : | : 659 : | : 235 : |
| Green beans..... | : 82 : | : 33 : | : 41 : | : 30 : |
| Green peppers..... | : 52 : | : 52 : | : 32 : | : 42 : |
| Eggplant..... | : 1 : | : 5 : | : 1 : | : 4 : |
| Lima beans..... | : - : | : 1/ : | : - : | : 1/ : |
| Total short tons: | : 3,237 : | : 1,051 : | : 1,244 : | : 877 : |
| Total cars..... | : 338 : | : 107 : | : 137 : | : 91 : |

Supplied by Thomas M. Powell, American Vice Consul, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.
1/ Less than 1 ton.

Plantings: Rough estimates of the acreage planted to winter vegetables in Sinaloa, Sonora and Baja California indicate that the total is about the same as last year, or 26,400 acres. About 16,290 acres are reported from Sinaloa against 13,275 last season; 7,870 from Sonora compared with 10,900 in 1933; and 2,250 acres in Baja California, or about the same as last year. These figures are rough approximations, converted from hectares.

Tomato plantings amount to around 14,000 acres compared with 13,000 in 1933. The pea acreage of 10,450 acres is little changed from last year. Apparently fewer green beans and peppers were planted this year. The following table gives the acreage in the various states:

MEXICO: Estimated acreage in winter vegetables

| Season and date | Tomatoes | Peas | String Beans | Green Peppers | Others | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
| <u>1933-34</u> | | | | | | |
| Sinaloa..... | 10,000 | 1,150 | 350 | 1,275 | <u>1/</u> 500 | 13,275 |
| Sonora..... | 1,000 | 9,500 | <u>2/</u> | 100 | <u>1/</u> 300 | 10,900 |
| Baja California.. | 2,000 | <u>1/</u> 50 | <u>1/</u> 50 | <u>1/</u> 50 | <u>1/</u> 100 | 2,250 |
| Total..... | 13,000 | 10,700 | 400 | 1,425 | <u>1/</u> 900 | 26,425 |
| <u>1934-35</u> | | | | | | |
| Sinaloa..... | 9,900 | 4,900 | 600 | 450 | <u>1/</u> 440 | 16,290 |
| Sonora..... | 2,000 | 5,500 | <u>2/</u> | 70 | <u>1/</u> 200 | 7,870 |
| Baja California.. | 2,000 | <u>1/</u> 50 | <u>1/</u> 50 | <u>1/</u> 50 | <u>1/</u> 100 | 2,250 |
| Total..... | 14,000 | 10,450 | 650 | 570 | 740 | 26,410 |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from consular reports.

1/ Estimated roughly by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

2/ Not available.

Sinaloa: The chief source of tomatoes as well as various other winter vegetables in the West Coast district of Mexico is the State of Sinaloa. Plantings are reported to be around 16,300 acres this year as against 13,275 acres last year. The increase is chiefly in green peas. Tomato plantings are placed at 9,900 acres against 10,000 in 1933, peas at 4,900 acres against 1,150 in 1933, string beans at 600 acres compared with 350 last year, green peppers at 450 acres against 1,275 in 1933, and all others at 440 compared with 500 acres last season.

Cloudy weather the last part of December in Sinaloa was reported to have retarded the development of the vegetable crop. No serious disease damage, however, was reported.

Marketing restrictions: All restrictions on marketing were removed in Sinaloa this year except the 5¢ fee per package which, as in Sonora, goes to the Agricultural Federation and the Agricultural Bank.

Sonora: Weather conditions have been generally satisfactory in Sonora since the planting season began although at the end of December more rainfall was still needed, according to Vice Consul Thomas M. Powell, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. A light frost in Southern Sonora caused some damage during the early part of December.

Acreage: About 7,870 acres were planted to winter vegetables in Sonora as compared with 10,900 last year. Fewer green peas were planted but more tomatoes. Area in green peas is estimated at 5,500 acres against 9,500 last year, and tomatoes are planted on 2,100 acres compared with about 1,000 in 1933. The remaining 270 acres is made up of green peppers, cucumbers, squash and okra.

Marketing restrictions: During the past two seasons all the winter vegetables exported from the West Coast of Mexico to the United States were marketed under a cooperative plan under the direct supervision of the Wells Fargo Express Company, S. A. This arrangement is no longer in effect. Since the beginning of the present shipping season, however, the Agricultural Association of Southern Sonora has controlled the packing and marketing of all green peas produced in that region. The organization has established a local market where competitive bidding is practiced once a week by vegetable buyers and all peas packed during the week are sold to the highest bidder, states Vice Consul Powell. There are no restrictions on the packing and marketing of other vegetables grown in that district, other than fees equivalent to 5¢ per package, 2¢ of which goes to the Agricultural Federation, and 3¢ to the Agricultural Bank.

Yield: Under normal conditions, a hectare of tomatoes produces from 400 to 600 lugs (30 lbs.) and a hectare of peas about 85 crates (45 lbs.) which is equivalent to about 160 to 240 30-pound lugs of tomatoes and 35 45-pound crates of peas an acre.

The principal receiving points in the United States are New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, Detroit and such cities as Ottawa and Montreal in Canada. The shipping season is from December to March from Sonora, and from January to May from Sinaloa. The chief producer of tomatoes is the Association of Producers of Vegetables of the Mayo (River Valley) and the chief green pea producer is the Association of Producers of Vegetables of the Yaqui (River Valley).

Baja California: Heavy rains in September did severe damage to crops in Baja California, especially in the southern part of the peninsula, according to A. E. Yepis, Vice Consul, Guaymas, Mexico. On the other hand, the cyclone brought much needed rain to replenish the generally meagre supplies of irrigation water.

Because of the ample water supplies, farmers put in the largest tomato acreage in the history of the district. Reports are that the tomato crop is expected to be much larger than last year's yield, and about 25% in excess of what is considered a normal harvest of from 250,000 to 300,000 lugs, or roughly 350,000 lugs. Apparently, about 2,000 acres were planted to tomatoes. The entire crop is grown for exportation to the United States but is not shipped unless the price is satisfactory. Most of the crop moves by boat to California. An American broker living in Todos Santos, Baja California, handles the entire sales.

Green peas or other vegetable crops are not raised on a large scale for export to the United States. The area in crops other than tomatoes is roughly estimated at 250 acres.

Cuba

Supplies: Apparently Cuba will have about 28,000 short tons of vegetables to ship to the United States this season (1934-35) as compared with about 20,000 tons last season, and 17,000 tons in 1932-33, according to Harold S. Towell, American Consul at Habana. If exports reach 28,000 short tons, it will be the largest movement in recent years.

Mr. Tewell estimates that about 1,500,000 28-pound lugs (21,000 tons) of tomatoes will be shipped as compared with 1,052,578 lugs (14,500 tons) last season; 104,500 32-pound hampers (1,700 tons) of lima beans against 92,230 packages (1,300 tons) last season; 70,600 40-pound (1,400 tons) crates of peppers compared with 35,493 crates (900 tons) in 1933-34; 120,000 45-pound crates (2,700 tons) of eggplant as contrasted with 72,891 crates (1,800 tons) last year; and 1,450 tons of other vegetables against 732 tons in 1933-34. The latter is chiefly cucumbers and new potatoes. These estimates are for the period November to May 31. Imports are shown in the following table together with the estimates for 1934-35.

UNITED STATES: Imports of fresh vegetables from Cuba and the estimated 1934-35 movement, July to June 1/

| Vegetable | Average : 1926-27 : 1930-31 | : 1930-31 | : 1931-32 | : 1932-33 | : 1933-34 | Estimate : 1934-35 : 2/ |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| | Short : tons | Short : tons | Short : tons | Short : tons | Short : tons | Short : tons |
| Tomatoes | 10,569 | 13,775 | 13,901 | 11,547 | 14,505 | 21,000 |
| Cucumbers | 804 | 1,670 | 1,812 | 1,338 | 713 | 3/ 900 |
| Eggplant | 2,979 | 2,391 | 1,632 | 942 | 1,808 | 2,700 |
| Green peppers ... | 2,724 | 1,529 | 645 | 89 | 900 | 1,400 |
| Green beans 4/ ... | 1,427 | 2,009 | 2,127 | 2,043 | 1,803 | 1,700 |
| Squash | 179 | 77 | 44 | 11 | 6 | 3/ 50 |
| Others | 2,186 | 1,997 | 795 | 1,100 | 13 | 3/ 500 |
| Total | 20,868 | 23,448 | 20,956 | 17,070 | 19,748 | 3/28,250 |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service Division from the annual reports of the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and plant quarantine.

1/ Most of the imports received from November to May 31.

2/ Preliminary estimate by Consul Harold S. Tewell, Habana, of vegetables available for shipment, and, of course, subject to change. Reduced to short tons from packages by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

3/ Estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

4/ Mostly limas.

Lack of moisture: During December Cuban winter vegetable crops were said to have suffered from lack of moisture, prospective yields in some instances being reduced by 12% to 15%.

Exports: The export season got under way this year about November 15. The movement through December 31, 1934, was much heavier than in the preceding year. This is shown in the following table:

CUBA: Exports of certain vegetables to the United States

| Vegetable | November and December : 1933 | : 1934 | Total exports : 1933-34 1/ | Estimated exports : 1934-35 1/ |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Packages | Packages | Packages | Packages |
| Tomatoes 2/ | 101,360 | 435,868 | 1,052,578 | 1,500,000 |
| Lima beans 3/ | 43,701 | 35,971 | 92,230 | 104,500 |
| Peppers 4/ | 602 | 3,315 | 35,493 | 70,600 |
| Eggplant 5/ | 3,403 | 4,691 | 72,891 | 120,000 |
| Total 6/ | 149,366 | 479,845 | 1,253,192 | 1,795,000 |

Supplied by Consul Harold S. Tewell, Habana, Cuba. 1/ November to May 31.

2/ Lugs of 28 lbs. net. 3/ Hampers of 32 lbs. net. 4/ Crates of 40 lbs. net. 5/ Crates of 45 lbs. net.

Isle of Pines, Cuba

Although there was less acreage planted to winter vegetables on the Isle of Pines, there will probably be from 20 to 30% more shipped to the United States than in 1933-34 because of the Florida freeze, according to Mr. William J. Mills, Treasurer and General Manager of the Isle of Pines Steamship Company.

Less acreage was planted in 1934 than in 1933 because of the low finances of the growers who have lost money for the last three or four years, states Mr. Mills. Larger shipments from the Island are expected to be secured by shipping more of choice grade than usual. Ordinarily only Fancy stock is moved to Habana for export.

The freeze in Florida is said to have come too late in the season to permit a very large increase in Cuban acreage and also, the very dry weather in December discouraged additional plantings. (Only a small proportion of the vegetable acreage in the Isle of Pines is under-irrigation)

Cucumbers are by far the principal vegetable shipped. There is a small area planted to eggplant and peppers, some of which will probably go forward.

Puerto Rico

Plantings: There were about 533 acres planted to winter vegetables in Puerto Rico this season, according to a letter from A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector at San Juan. About 380 acres are in cucumbers and 153 in various crops such as summer squash, peppers, string beans and tomatoes.

The cucumber crop was in very good condition early in January and was expected to yield 175 bushel crates per acre, states Mr. Mason. Most of the remaining crops were expected to be consumed on the Island, especially the tomatoes, since prices prevailing there in January were higher than in the United States.

Comparative figures on acreage are given in the table below. It will be noted that 1934-35 shows a heavy reduction. It is entirely possible that plantings for late shipment have been increased since this information was received in mid-January. Very good profits were made by cucumber growers in 1933-34, according to Mr. Mason.

PUERTO RICO: Plantings of winter vegetables

| Product | 1930 - 31 | 1932 - 33 | 1934 - 35 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
| Cucumbers | 270 | 400 | 380 |
| Tomatoes | 250 | 500 | 32 |
| Peppers | 402 | 300 | 29 |
| Eggplant | 32 | 150 | --- |
| String beans | 4 | 100 | 40 |
| Potatoes | --- | 100 | --- |
| Lima beans | --- | 100 | --- |
| Green peas | --- | 60 | --- |
| Others | 85 | 100 | 52 |
| Total | 1,043 | 1,810 | 533 |

Supplied by A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Shipments: The movement of the chief vegetables from Puerto Rico to the United States in the last five seasons are given in the following table. There has been an upward trend in shipments of vegetables from Puerto Rico to the United States. Last year was the banner year when 1,842 short tons went forward.

UNITED STATES: Shipments of fresh vegetables from
Puerto Rico, July to June 1/

| Vegetable | : Average : | : | : | : | : | : |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | : 1926-27 : | 1930-31 | 1931-32 | 1932-33 | 1933-34 | 1934-35 |
| | : 1930-31 <u>2/</u> : | : | : | : | : | : <u>3/</u> |
| | : Short : | Short | Short | Short | Short | Short |
| | : tons : | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons |
| Cucumbers | 66.2 | 104.8 | 132.6 | 493.5 | 1,465.4 | 1,600 |
| Eggplant | 76.2 | 55.3 | 28.8 | 14.7 | 26.2 | 50 |
| Peppers | 152.8 | 317.6 | 139.0 | 37.4 | 31.3 | 50 |
| Pumpkins | 53.5 | 85.1 | 54.1 | 41.7 | 71.7 | 100 |
| Squash | 10.0 | 0 | 34.9 | 114.8 | 54.9 | 100 |
| Tomatoes | 107.1 | 100.9 | 46.3 | 103.4 | 48.9 | 100 |
| Others | 59.5 | 78.0 | 278.9 | 189.9 | 143.6 | 150 |
| Total | 525.3 | 741.7 | 714.6 | 995.4 | 1,842.0 | 2,150 |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from the annual reports of the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

1/ With the exception of 1933-34, returns were given in containers. These have been roughly reduced to short tons. Most of these vegetables are received from November to May 31.

2/ Year 1927-28 was not available hence not included in averages.

3/ Roughly estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

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V-104

March 6, 1935.

FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Larger shipments from Mexican West Coast

Summary: In the first half of January, shipments of winter vegetables from the West Coast of Mexico regained some of the ground that was lost in the last few years, according to Vice Consul, Thomas M. Powell, at Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. There has been a shortage of fresh vegetables in the United States due to freezes. About 220 cars rolled across the border at Nogales from January 1 to 15, 1935, as compared with 145 cars in the same period in 1934. Peas and tomatoes constituted the bulk of the movement. Most of the shipments originated in southern Sonora. The most important producing State, Sinaloa, however, is now in a position to supply vegetables. An excellent crop of tomatoes has matured together with green peas and miscellaneous produce. The total movement from November 1 to January 15 was 311 cars compared with 282 last season.

Exports: Of the 220 cars shipped through Nogales from Mexico in the period January 1 to 15, 1935, 112 were green peas, 81 tomatoes, 5 green peppers, 2 eggplant, 1 green beans and 19 miscellaneous vegetables. The table below gives the movement in terms of pounds and cars.

MEXICO: Approximate exports of green vegetables to the United States, January 1 to 15, 1934 and 1935

| Kind | 1934 | | 1935 | |
|-------------------|-----------|------|-----------|-------|
| | Pounds | Cars | Pounds | Cars |
| Tomatoes..... | 963,940 | 44 | 1,475,031 | 81 |
| Peas..... | 1,559,580 | 93 | 2,042,918 | 112 |
| Green peppers.... | 98,484 | 1 | 264,076 | 5 |
| Green beans..... | 77,107 | 3 | 171,119 | 1 |
| Eggplants..... | 7,983) | | 55,792 | 2 |
| Lima Beans..... | -) | 1/ 4 | 8,332) | |
| Cucumbers..... | -) | | 6,075) | 1/ 19 |
| Totals..... | 2,707,094 | 145 | 4,023,343 | 220 |

Compiled by Vice Consul Powell from records of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant quarantine. 1/ Mixed cars.

Total shipments for the 1934-35 season (November to January 15) are now considerably ahead of those of last year. Were it not, however, for the heavy movement in the first half of January this would not be the case. Out of 311 cars shipped to January 15, 138 were peas, 135 tomatoes, 7 green peppers, 3 green beans, 2 eggplant and 26 mixed vegetables. Details of the movement are given in the table below.

MEXICO: Approximate exports of green vegetables to the United States November 1 to January 15, 1934 and 1935.

| Kind | To January 15, 1934 | | To January 15, 1935 | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|---------|
| | Pounds | Cars | Pounds | Cars |
| Tomatoes..... | 1,985,100 | 93 | 2,889,878 | 135 |
| Peas..... | 2,877,554 | 173 | 2,551,586 | 138 |
| Green Peppers..... | 161,943 | 1 | 366,023 | 7 |
| Green Beans..... | 159,496 | 8 | 237,384 | 3 |
| Eggplants..... | 10,233 |) | 66,461 | 2 |
| Lima Beans..... | - |) 1/ 7 | 8,500 |) 1/ 26 |
| Cucumbers..... | - |) | 6,075 |) |
| Totals..... | 5,194,326 | 282 | 6,125,907 | 311 |

Compiled by Vice Consul Powell from records of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant quarantine at Nogales. 1/ Mixed cars.

General conditions: Ideal weather prevailed in the winter vegetable growing district of southern Sonora during the past two weeks (January 1 to 15) and all indications point to a busy season. Vegetable shipments increased steadily during the period under review from that region and these are expected to continue for approximately one month longer. Practically all of the tomatoes and a majority of the green peas exported to the United States from the West Coast district during the present season originated in southern Sonora.

Unusually warm weather was experienced lately in the State of Sinaloa which was very beneficial to the tomato crops in that region. However, the pea crop suffered as a result of this condition as pea vines are more susceptible to injury from heat. Shipments of green peas from the West Coast district are believed to have reached the peak during the past week (January 15) and are expected to decline steadily while tomato shipments will undoubtedly increase rapidly in the near future, reaching the peak about the 1st or middle of March of this year.

Increased shipments: Shipments of winter vegetables to the United States from the West Coast of Mexico have increased rapidly as the season progressed. As hereinbefore stated, southern Sonora has furnished a majority of the vegetable exports so far. However, tomato shipments from the State of Sinaloa, the principal tomato growing district of the West Coast, are just beginning. As may be seen from the foregoing comparative tables, exports of tomatoes, green peas and green peppers, the principal commodities grown in the above mentioned regions, have shown a perceptible increase over those for the corresponding period of the previous season.

Quality: Generally speaking, the winter vegetables offered for export during the present season from the West Coast of Mexico have been only fair in quality. Tomato shipments, so far, are considered to be slightly below par with those of previous years while the green peas, particularly late shipments do not compare favorably with those of former years. However, according to information received from local shippers, the present tomato crop in the State of Sinaloa now ready for shipment to the United States is considered to be far superior in quality to those of previous years. This may be attributed to the fact that growing conditions in that State have been unusually favorable since the beginning of the season.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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Vegetables
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FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Prospects for 1935-36 Cuban Vegetable Season

General Situation: Earlier plantings of vegetables are being made this year than usual in Cuba which, weather permitting, will mean earlier maturity of crops, according to a communication from Vice Consul, W. M. Walmsley, Jr., at Habana. Plantings are expected to be as large as last season with somewhat heavier yields. Production will probably be larger but exports may be no larger than last year. Only the best quality of vegetables will be permitted to clear for export.

Traders appear to be optimistic with regard to the coming export season, states Mr. Walmsley. Growers and exporters are said to be solidly organized in the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Exporters. The Organization is drawing up legislation and regulations to govern the grading and exporting of fruits and vegetables from Cuba.

Shipments of the principal vegetables during the main shipping season, November to May, last year exceeded 54,000,000 pounds compared with 31,900,000 pounds in 1933-34. The total for 1934-35 was made up of 38,000,000 pounds of tomatoes, 4,500,000 pounds of peppers, 4,300,000 pounds of eggplant, 3,700,000 pounds of lima beans, 1,600,000 pounds of cucumbers, 1,400,000 pounds of okra and 600,000 pounds of new potatoes. See table on page 3.

Tomatoes: Tomato seed beds were laid out three or four weeks earlier this year than is usually the case. The first transplantings of seedlings have been made. It is not expected that the acreage planted in tomatoes will be much larger than last year. Harvesting will likely start around November 15, if the present fine weather prevails.

The association of Growers and Exporters has adopted the United States grades for tomatoes. "Cuba No. 1" and "Cuba No. 2" will be the only grades exported. These grades are defined the same as the "U.S. No. 1" and "U.S. No. 2" grades. The standard tomato lug of 1400 cubic inches has been adopted. The smallest sized tomatoes that will be cleared for export will pack 6x7x6 in four tiers. Considerably smaller sizes were allowed to move into export last season. Inspections will be made at the wharves only. Inspectors will be paid by the vegetable Sanitation Office of the Cuban Department of Agriculture. See table on page 3 for exports and United States duty.

Lima Beans: Lima beans like tomatoes have been planted earlier this year and it is expected that first pickings of the light early crop will commence about November 1. Plantings will probably be about the same as last year but the yield should be higher unless a drought occurs such as the one experienced the last of 1934 and the first of 1935.

Potatoes: The potato crop is not planted before November so little can be indicated as yet. Red Bliss are used for the first crop and constitute most of the export surplus. Potato exports to the United States are somewhat sporadic, as prices which prevail in the Cuban market are usually above those in the United States and only seasonal shipments under special circumstances are made.

Potatoes are the only vegetable crop which is officially estimated in Cuba. The production of Red Bliss in 1934-35 was 384,600 bags of 100 pounds and whites netted 149,600 bags, making a total of 534,200 bags. For exports of potatoes, see the table on page 3.

Other Vegetables: A considerable quantity of other vegetables are exported from Cuba. Green peppers and eggplant are of considerable importance and were especially heavy in 1934-35 due to the Florida frost. Sizeable quantities of cucumbers and okra also move out. The okra shipments were smaller in 1934-35 than in the preceding season due to drought and closer inspection of export shipments. No increase in plantings of these vegetables are anticipated but, as in case of tomatoes and lima beans, exporters expect better yields.

The output per acre of all vegetables grown in Cuba is far below that of most sections in the United States, according to Mr. Walmsley. Truck farms in Cuba are large but cultural methods somewhat primitive. The use of fertilizers is rare due to the cheapness of the land and the uncertainty of favorable returns.

CUBA: Exports of principal fresh vegetables to the United States during the various periods that the minimum United States duties apply, together with the duty

| Vegetables | 1933-34 | 1934-35 | Minimum duties |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | <u>1000 pounds</u> | <u>1000 pounds</u> | |
| <u>Tomatoes</u> | | | |
| December | 3,655.0 | 14,548.3 | |
| January | 8,076.5 | 13,249.5 | 1 4/5¢ per pound |
| February | 8,942.9 | 9,964.0 | |
| Total | 20,674.4 | 37,761.8 | |
| <u>Lima Beans</u> | | | |
| December | 1,646.2 | 1,243.7 | |
| January | 1,077.6 | 491.4 | |
| February | 720.1 | 958.5 | 1 2/5¢ per pound |
| March | 349.5 | 1,026.2 | |
| April | 89.4 | - | |
| May | - | - | |
| Total | 3,862.8 | 3,719.8 | |
| <u>Potatoes</u> | | | |
| December | - | - | |
| January | 84.2 | 396.6 | 3/10¢ per pound |
| February | 18.2 | 212.6 | |
| Total | 102.4 | 609.2 | |
| <u>Cucumbers</u> | | | |
| Dec. 1-Feb. 28 | 1087.3 | 1586.7 | 1 1/5¢ per pound |
| <u>Eggplant</u> | | | |
| Dec. 1-Mar. 31 | 2756.5 | 4286.6 | 3/5¢ per pound |
| <u>Okra</u> | | | |
| Dec. 1-May 31 | 1580.3 | 1360.7 | 20% ad valorem |
| <u>Peppers</u> | | | |
| Jan. 1-Apr. 30 | 1811.0 | 4497.2 | 1 1/5¢ per pound |
| Grand Total | 31,894.7 | 53,842.0 | - - - |

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from information supplied by W. N. Walmsley, Jr., American Vice Consul at Habana.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Improved Grading Aids Vegetable Exports from Cuba

Exports of vegetables from Cuba to the United States in November were 66 percent larger than in November 1934. The increase is explained by the favorable prices prevailing in the United States for Cuban vegetables, according to a communication from Consul Harold S. Tewell at Habana. Higher prices were secured because of the improved grading of Cuban vegetables this season and better purchasing power in the United States writes Mr. Tewell.

Ships outward manifests filed with the American Consulate at Habana, show that exports of vegetables from Cuba to the United States totaled 2,285,638 pounds in November compared with 1,373,551 last November. Tomatoes and lima beans were the two big items in the trade. Tomatoes totaled 1,004,354 pounds compared with 949,691 last year in November. A large increase occurred in lima bean exports. Shipments of this popular vegetable amounted to 1,007,017 pounds in November, 1935, compared with only 277,142 pounds in November, 1934. Other items listed were okra, eggplant, cucumbers and peppers.

Present estimates indicate that approximately 8,400,000 pounds of tomatoes were to go forward in December, or 300,000 lugs (28 lbs. net). Substantially larger amounts are expected to move to the States in January. Preliminary estimates of the total export shipments from the Cuban winter tomato crop remain at 1,300,000 to 1,400,000 lugs for the 1935-36 season.

It is reported that growers and exporters have decided that few, if any, tomatoes packing as small as 7 x 7 will be permitted to move to the American market this season. Although not in force in November, the voluntary adherence to the requirements of the new grading and packing regulations, which are given below, is claimed to have contributed largely to the good prices received for exports during November.

Cuba plans closer control of vegetable exports

Conferences between representatives of the Cuban Department of Agriculture and the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Exporters have resulted recently in the preparation of a law to govern grading, packing, and inspection of Cuban winter vegetables for export. Heretofore, certain regulations have been applied to a few products, but the provisions now prepared for enactment into law cover all leading Cuban winter vegetables shipped to American markets. According to Harold S. Towell, American Consul at Habana, the new law is expected to be in force for the coming season.

The general requirements of the proposed law require exporters of fruits and vegetables to be registered with the Cuban Department of Agriculture. Moreover, the packing plants are required to be licensed by that Department and must be in charge of a properly qualified manager. The law also provides for inspection regarding sanitations, quality, and grade. Such inspection, together with a check on the type of package used and the markings therefor, is conducted both at packing plants and when the goods are presented at the docks for shipment.

Fresh tomatoes: For export are to be divided into grades, Cuban No. 1 and Cuban No. 2. To be graded as Cuban No. 1, the tomatoes in each shipment must be all of one horticultural variety, of the same size, well formed, and in a perfect state of ripeness. The tomatoes must be free of deformities, without outside bruises, cracks, scars, spots, or evidence of insects, insect damage, or disease and must be free of leaves, dirt, and other matter. Not over 10 percent of the contents of any container will be permitted to bear small marks from rubbing in transportation or small spots not due to insects or disease.

To qualify for Grade No. 2, tomatoes must conform to the foregoing requirements for first grade fruit except that small deformities will be permitted if the fruit is of good quality, and small healed injuries and small cracks about the stem will be permitted. Not over 20 percent of the contents of any container may bear spots caused by rubbing in transportation.

After January 1, shipments from the provinces of Pinar de Rio, Habana, and Matanzas will be passed if containing up to 15 percent of half ripe tomatoes or tomatoes showing color, while shipments from Santa Clara, Camaguey, and Oriente provinces may contain up to 20 percent of such tomatoes. The following defects will disqualify tomatoes for export: Tenderness, over-ripeness, malformation, cracks indicating possible decay, healed deep cracks, insect damage or evidence of insects, black spots, mosaic, dirt, and the low quality characteristics of "water and seed" tomatoes.

The specified standard sizes for export lugs are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|---------------------|
| 4 x 5 | with | 60 | tomatoes in 3 tiers |
| 5 x 5 | with | 75 | tomatoes in 3 tiers |
| 5 x 6 | with | 90 | tomatoes in 3 tiers |
| 6 x 6 | with | 108 | tomatoes in 3 tiers |
| 6 x 7 | with | 125 | tomatoes in 3 tiers |
| 7 x 7 | with | 196 | tomatoes in 4 tiers |
| 6 x 7 x 6 | with | 180 | tomatoes in 4 tiers |

The pack 7 x 7 is authorized conditionally and only for tomatoes grading Cuban No. 1. Whenever the Cuban Department of Agriculture representative in an export market reports unfavorably concerning the demand for that size or when that pack does not bring a profitable price, exportation will be prohibited by the Department of Agriculture. The exportation of fresh tomatoes in bulk or in any form not indicated in the regulations is prohibited.

Each tomato is required to be wrapped in paper, one tomato in a wrapper. The fruit must be packed solidly to withstand handling in shipment. The size of the fruit must be indicated on the end of each lug and must be in accordance with the facts. Violation of these requirements will result in condemnation of the lot for export.

Only Lima Beans packed in standard hampers prescribed by the regulations, meeting standard requirements may be exported. Exportable beans must be tender, shiny, free of dirt, dust, stems, leaves, and other matter, and spots caused by disease. They must not be damaged by borers or other insects and must contain no insects.

Beans for export will be delivered for inspection at the plant quarantine station at the Habana docks but large exporters may have quarantine inspectors assigned to their packing plants. In the latter event, the period of such assignment at a particular plant will be limited, for shipments originating there will be subject to re-inspection. Beans failing to pass inspection will be disposed of by the Bureau of Plant Quarantine. Lima bean pods containing 2 beans will be passed if they are straight and well formed, but, if comprising 25 percent of a total shipment, they must be in separate hampers. The regulations also apply to string beans.

Eggplant for export must be packed in standard crates proscribed by the regulations. All eggplant packed in the same crate must be of uniform size, color, and shape, and of the same horticultural variety. They must be without deformities, spots, bruises, rot, marks, stems, leaves, dirt, and defects caused by insects. Eggplant meeting these requirements will be graded Cuban No. 1 while those failing to meet the requirements as to color only, will be graded No. 2. Grades may be stamped on crates. In every case eggplant must be of full size but not ripe. Each eggplant for export must be wrapped individually in paper and only the following sizes will be passed for export markets: 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 44, 48, and 60 to a crate.

Peppers for export must be packed in prescribed standard crates. This vegetable must be of full uniform size, of a bright green color, and of the same variety, free of leaves, stems, damage by the sun, insects, and disease, and evidence of rot. Half-ripe peppers meeting the foregoing specifications will be passed, but crates containing them must be stamped "red peppers" in red ink. The exportation of peppers of the Italian variety will be permitted if the above requirements as to color and form are met, and crates containing them must be stamped "Cuban Italian peppers".

Two methods of packing will be permitted for okra: In hampers specified for lima beans and in crates containing 6 baskets of a capacity of 4 liters. Okra of the long variety and that of the short, cylindrical variety may not be packed in the same container. For export, okra must be tender and fresh, perfectly clean and free from spots, insect damage, disease, and evidence of rot. All okra packed in the same container must be of the same quality, size, and form. If okra is found mixed with other fruit or vegetables, the entire shipment will be refused and disposed of by the Bureau of Plant Quarantine without compensation to the packer.

Exportable cucumbers must be tender, and those packed in the same crate must be of the same size, quality, and shape, free from disease, insect damage, spots or blemishes, dirt, stems, and leaves. On each crate will be stamped the number of cucumbers contained and their approximate net weight.

All containers of Cuban fruit and vegetables must bear the words "products of Cuba" placed thereon by means of a rubber stamp or impression in ink and also the number of the packing house at which the contents were prepared for export. Only new and clean containers will be permitted for use in exporting fresh vegetables and only those types and sizes provided for in the regulations may be used. Exports in bulk or in containers not indicated in the regulations are absolutely prohibited. Companies engaged in transporting fresh vegetables to foreign markets are required to provide, at the docks of ships and all car ferries, the refrigeration necessary for such products to reach the port of destination in good condition in accordance with the following:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Tomatoes | 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 days |
| Lima beans | 32 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 days |
| Peppers | 32 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 days |
| Eggplant | 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 days |
| Okra | 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit for 5 days |
| Cucumbers | 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit for 6 days. |

The maximum period of refrigeration indicated is the approximate time the product specified may be under refrigeration at the docks before shipment on vessels. On all vessels the same degree of refrigeration will be provided for such time as may be necessary for the shipment to reach its destination.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

Slightly Larger Vegetable Plantings State of Sinaloa, Mexico &/

General Situation: Around 11,350 acres will be planted to winter vegetables in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico this season compared with 10,300 in 1934-35, according to Vice Consul R. C. Beverstock at Mazatlan. As usual the heaviest planting will be tomatoes followed by green peas, green peppers and string beans. Shipments of tomatoes may be somewhat heavier than last season but the green peas are mostly being raised for seed and only a small quantity are expected to be consigned in the fresh state. If high prices prevail, a larger quantity of green peas, than at present expected, will be shipped. With good weather conditions and satisfactory prices in the United States, there should be about 1,200 cars of tomatoes, 100 cars of green peas (if these are shipped green), 100 cars of green peppers, 25 cars of string beans and a small number of cars of various other vegetables, or mixed cars shipped to the United States.

Acreage: There has been a drastic decline in acreage planted to winter vegetables in Sinaloa since 1930-31. Close to 28,000 acres were planted in that season. The plantings declined rapidly to 10,300 acres in 1934-35, which apparently will be the low point as about 11,350 acres are reported for 1935-36. The decline in acreage is explained chiefly by the increase in American duties on vegetables and the low prices that developed as a result of the depression. Secondary factors were the agitation on part of organized farmers in Sinaloa for smaller plantings and the restrictions placed on marketing by the State. The table below gives the plantings of winter vegetables in Sinaloa for the past six years.

Estimated Winter Vegetable Acreage State of Sinaloa, Mexico

| Season | Tomatoes | Green peas | Green peppers | String beans | Total |
|---------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
| 1930-31 | 26,000: | 800: | 1/ 400: | 1/ 500: | 1/ 27,700 |
| 1931-32 | 22,300: | 900: | 1/ 400: | 1/ 500: | 1/ 24,300 |
| 1932-33 | 15,200: | 2,400: | 500: | 1,300: | 19,400 |
| 1933-34 | 8,850: | 1,150: | 375: | 350: | 10,725 |
| 1934-35 | 8,000: | 1,350: | 550: | 400: | 10,300 |
| 1935-36 | 8,500: | 1,500: | 900: | 450: | 11,350 |

Compiled by Vice Consul R. C. Beverstock, Mazatlan.

1/ Rough estimates by the Foreign Agricultural Service in order to get totals for 1930-31 and 1931-32.

a/ The Mexican West Coast vegetable deal comprises the southern part of the state of Sonora, Sinaloa and Lower California. No information has been received from the other two yet.

Control of the vegetable industry in Sinaloa by the Confederation of Agricultural Association of the State of Sinaloa, which was established on November 21, 1932, was relaxed during the summer of 1934. The 1934-35 crop was marketed by the growers as they saw fit. Vice Consul Beverstock reports that the Confederation has officially stated that a similar hands off policy will be followed in the 1935-36 season. Growers will, however, be required to help maintain the Confederation and to continue to make payments to the amortization fund of the Banco de Sinaloa. The contributors will eventually be issued shares of stock in the bank.

Weather conditions: Extremely hot weather in October, combined with heavy insect injury, practically wiped out early plantings. Weather conditions since October have been satisfactory. New plantings were being made in November and early December. Planting is expected to continue through December. Most of the tomatoes and peas are already planted. Growers expect to recoup their early season losses on shipments in the late winter and early spring months. Shipments in these months are usually the most profitable, according to Mr. Beverstock.

Shipment: A few shipments of tomatoes have been made but the season is expected to be late. A small quantity of the crop is expected to roll in January with a majority of the shipments going forward in February and March. Production costs are expected to be higher this season due to increased wages, higher taxes and other items.

On the basis of the acreage estimates contained in this report and weather conditions, it appears probable that shipments for the seasons will amount to roughly 1,200 cars of tomatoes, 100 cars of green peas, (if shipped fresh), 100 cars of green peppers, 25 cars of string beans, and a few mixed cars of various vegetables. Under favorable climatic and price conditions, 7 acres of tomatoes will produce one car of 630 lugs; 10 acres of peas, a car of 320 crates; and 7 acres of green peppers, a car of 450 crates hampers; according to Vice Consul Beverstock.